Calipso Bridge
Spanning the Yellowstone River
Terry Vicinity
Prairie County
Montana

HAER No. MT-26

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Calipso Bridge

MT-26

Location: Spanning the Yellowstone River 4 miles west of Terry, Prairie County, Montana.

Date of Construction: ca. 1907

Present Owner: Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad
516 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Present Use: Railroad Bridge

Significance: In 1907-1908, a new transcontinental railroad was built through Montana. It was the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, more commonly known as the Milwaukee Road. This railroad was the first to enter Montana from South Dakota, where it intersected the Northern Pacific at Miles City. It provided new rail service to large agricultural areas in Central Montana, passed through the copper mining district of Butte and the timbered areas of Western Montana before heading on to the West Coast. This 1080 foot four span bridge is the eastern-most of three almost identical Milwaukee Road bridges which cross the Yellowstone River. Because the N.P. already served the area south of the river, the Milwaukee crossed the river at this point to serve the area north of the river. The Milwaukee runs along the north bank of the Yellowstone for about 80 miles from Terry to Forsyth, except where it crosses back to the south bank at Miles City for a junction with the N.P. at Forsyth, the Milwaukee leaves the Yellowstone River for the Musselshell and Central Montana. Each of the four pin-connected Parker through truss spans is 270 feet in length. The superstructures are as follows: the lower chord of the outside two panels at each end is laced composite channel sections and the rest of the lower cord is of eyebars; verticals are laced composite channel sections; diagonals are eyebars and turnbuckles; the upper chord is a continuous plate riveted atop two composite channel sections with lacing bars riveted to their lower flanges. The spans rest on concrete abutments and three concrete

piers. Because the tracks are not perpendicular to the flow of the river, the piers and abutments are not perpendicular to the trusses. Therefore, the bridge supports are skewed about 3 feet and the inclined end posts are not parallel to one another. This skew occurs only at the end panels; all other panels are in line with each other. Composite I-beam stringers are riveted to the web of composite I-beam floor beams which are riveted to the superstructure. A deck of wood ties rests on the stringers and carries one set of tracks. This bridge was probably built in 1907 by the American Bridge Company of New York. In early 1980, the Milwaukee Road abandoned its tracks west of Miles City. Tracks, including this bridge, east of Miles City are being maintained under a subsidy from the State of South Dakota.

Transmitted by: Kevin Murphy, Historian HAER, 1984; from data compiled by Fedric L. Quivik, 1979

ADDENDUM TO
CALIPSO BRIDGE
Spanning the Yellowstone River
Terry Vicinity
Prairie County
Montana

HAER No. MT-26

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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